

Rev. page pref - I only printed out the 1st page
since no other cxs.

K-80

Cedar Hill
Quaker Neck
c.1750

Cedar Hill Farm, located near Chestertown at the northern end of Quaker Neck, was associated with the Garnett, Perkins and Thomas families in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The house associated with the farm is located on the part of Kemp's Beginning which Joseph Garnett, saddler, acquired in two separate purchases, the first in 1748 and the second in 1751.¹ He had, in 1744, already acquired 250 acres of an adjoining tract called Sanford.²

According to the date over the basement entrance (scratched in 20th century concrete!), the house was built in 1747. The land, however, was not acquired by Garnett until the following year. By the time of his death in 1758, the property was referred to as his "dwelling plantation" in his will. This places the construction date of the house somewhere in the ten year period of 1748-58.

When originally built, the house was similar to Saulsbury in Talbot County. Measuring 18' 6" x 28', a gambrel roof extended over the longer dimension creating a broad gable entrance facade. Its two rooms were heated by corner fireplaces located on the back wall. The stair was located in the northeast corner where there was an outside basement entrance as well.

In Garnett's will, the "dwelling plantation" was bequeathed to his son, Joseph, Jr., when he came of age. In the meantime the lands were to

be rented for the benefit of the estate. To his wife, Sarah Piner Garnett, he stipulated that a brick house, nearly equal in size to the farmhouse, should be built on his lot in town (present location of Chesapeake Bank and Trust). He appointed his daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Daniel Perkins guardians to the minor children until they reached 12 years of age. At that point his son Joseph was to be given two years schooling under the guardianship of his brother-in-law, Thomas Wilkins.³

After coming of age, Joseph Jr.'s name appears in various land transactions, in each case as a farmer. When the Tax Assessor visited Cedar Hill in 1783, he assigned 97-1/2 acres of Sanford and 250 acres of Kemp's Beginning to Joseph Garnett. Also listed were the following: "one brick dwelling house, an old kitchen, four outhouses and one small orchard."⁴ Garnett was appointed trustee of Mary Hanson's "Tolchester" farm in a premarital agreement with Isaac Cannell in 1785. But within five years he must have fallen on hard times. In 1790, in order to have liens removed from his plantation, he sold 167-1/2 acres to John and Anna Maria (Frisby) Rowles for their new home (Airy Hill).⁵

The sale to the Rowles was enough to see Joseph Jr. through the 1790's, for when he wrote his will in 1797, he bequeathed the farm to his son, Joseph (III), provided that Joseph be executor to his estate and guardian to the minor children.⁶

Joseph, III sold the farm nine months after his father's death in 1800 to his uncle Daniel Perkins.⁷ Cedar Hill remained in the possession of the Perkins until 1835 when Daniel's heirs sold the farm to John Thomas (son

of Richard Snowden Thomas).⁸ In 1878, the heirs of John Thomas sold the farm to William B. Usilton.⁹

In 1910, "Cedar Grove", as it was called in the deed, was purchased by Harry Nichols ¹⁰ who undertook the major remodeling that changed the old brick 1-1/2 story gambrel house into a two story brick residence with hip roof (1916). The two story back wing was built at the same time. Mrs. Nichols survived her husband (d. 1961) by 13 years, at which time the farm was devised to two friends. The house and 2-1/2 acres were sold in 1988 to the present owners who have undertaken a general rehabilitation, adding a new wing in 1995.

1. Provincial Court Records, Lib. EI 8, fol. 422; Land Records, Lib. JS 27, fol. 16.
2. Land Records, Lib. JS 25, fol. 216.
3. Wills, Lib. 4, fol. 52.
4. 1782 Tax Assessment.
5. Land Records, Lib. BC 3, fol. 28.
6. Wills, Lib. fol. 57.
7. Land Records, Lib. TW 1, fol. 487. Daniel owned another part of Sandford, the Mill & Millhouse about a mile southwest of Cedar Hill (later called Brice's Mill).
8. Land Records, Lib. JNG 4, fol. 83.
9. Land Records, Lib. DCB 3, fol. 551.
10. Land Records, Lib. JTD 20, fol. 247.

1. STATE <u>Ind</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Chestertown</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Airport Rd. S. Collins Rd.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Bess Nichols</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-80</u> 2. NAME <u>Cedar Hill</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>Built 1747 - Rebuilt 1916</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p> Cedar Hill is a 2 bays long on its west facade plus a door on the west^{North} side of the facade, which was^{is} added later than the original structure. There is a staged water table around the building and segmental arches over some of the windows. Flat over others (later). The west facade^{house} is built in Flemish bond and appears to have been built at the corners^{except} and the 2nd floor of both South + North sides; Apparently of the second floor's construction the west side were the guests of a gambol building. The present roof is^{is} shingled. There^{There} is a small strip of concrete on the north side, apparently over the former cellar entrance, with the following imprinted thereon: Built 1747 - Rebuilt 1916. There is a very large frame wing off the east side of the brick section, which^{which} is only 2 bays deep. (Possibly the house was the^{similar to} Sautsbury, Talbot Co) </p>		OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>poor</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct 2, 1968</u>	

Cedar Hill is two bays long on its west facade plus a door on the north side of the facade, which was added later than the original structure. There is a stepped water table around the building and segmental arches over some of the windows. Flat over others (later). The house is laid in Flemish bond except the corners of the second floor west facade, and the second floor of both south and north sides; apparently the west side was the gable of a gambrel building. The present roof is hipped. There is a small strip of concrete on the north side, apparently over the former cellar entrance, with the following imprinted thereon: Built 1747 - Rebuilt 1916. There is a large frame wing off the east side of the brick section, which is only two bays deep. (Possibly the house was similar to Saulsbury, Talbot Co.)

